

THE DC GAZETTE

JUNE 1975

Trouble for the city's new university (and it hasn't even started yet).



In this issue

ARIANA CLARKE explains the important issues that need to be resolved before the creation of a university for the city. . . . Sam Smith looks at the Sizemore controversy. . . . Anne Chase reports on the new bill of rights for students in DC schools and why it's not working the way it was supposed to. . . . Frank Smith writes on an urban food project that could provide an alternative to higher prices at the supermarket. . . . A fact sheet on the new real estate speculation tax. . . . Key votes of the city council. . . . New council bills. . . . Archihorse on Bolling. . . . And what's happening.

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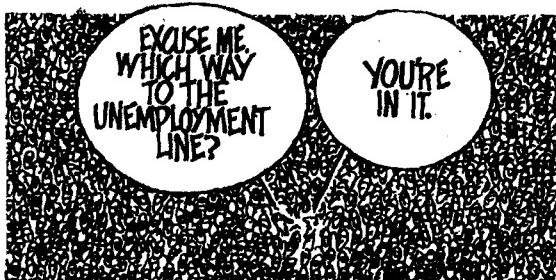
VOL VI NR 6 JUNE 1975

DC EYE

ONE OF THE IDENTIFYING characteristics of the RLA has always been lethargy. Therefore, the speed with which it has moved to turn over the Ft. Lincoln bonanza to local developer Ted Hagans is curious. On March 5 the RLA board decided to seek a new developer for the project. On March 11 the requirements for applicants became available. Applications had to be in by March 17 at close of business. Sixty seven hours later, Hagans was chosen. Since Hagans will be getting a subsidy of millions in DC tax dollars a little more deliberation would seem to have been in order. As the Metropolitan Washington Planning and Housing Association told RLA, "We respectfully urge that the Ft. Lincoln New Town plan be sent back to the drawing board, even at the risk of some further delay, to bring the plan up to date, to secure the necessary governmental commitments, and to insure that the benefits and profits will accrue to the District and its citizens."

DURING hearings on his renomination to the zoning commission and while sitting on that body, Jack Nevius denied having a conflict of interest because of close ties to the banking industry. Now, just a few months after those confirmation hearings, Nevius has quit to become a lobbyist for the city's bankers. The question now is: just how far did Nevius mislead the council and the public about his relationships with the banks when he denied a conflict of interest? What is the point of having conflict of interest regulations if people like Nevius can just laugh at them?

IT'S AN important issue but not many people seem interested in it: variable mortgages. The housing industry is pushing for them. They would permit interest rates on homes to move with the changes in interest rates generally. That means generally upwards. We were glad to see that Walter Fauntroy has come out strongly against variable mortgages saying that they would "feed the fire of an inflationary psychology that we have got break. . .[It is] one of the less well-thought-through concepts I have seen in a long time."



- WIN Magazine

Trouble at DC U.

ARIANA CLARKE

THE future of the city's public higher education is on the line. The issue: U.S. Public Law 93-471, authorizing the formation of a landgrant "University of the District of Columbia."

Its stated goal: to offer improved public post-secondary education to DC residents via consolidation of Federal City College, DC Teachers College and Washington Technical Institute.

The teams: supporting the concept are House District Committee chairman Charles Diggs, Mayor Washington and WTI president Cleveland Denard, among others; opposed to many aspects of the bill - "Everyone else," said a FCC spokesman.

The score: Undecided.

Presently the congressional bill is in the hands of the city council, more specifically a committee of one headed by William Spaulding. In preliminary skirmishing on the legislation, the city council last month approved an amendment offered by Julius Hobson Sr. to postpone establishment of the university for one year. The amendment was sought by critics of the congressional bill who wanted more time to come up with an alternative proposal for the university. The only council members opposing the amendment were Sterling Tucker, Jerry Moore and William Spaulding. Charles Diggs was reported to be angered by the council decision.

"The building of this university is going to require long and careful thought and planning," said Wendell Russell, president of FCC and DCTC, during a hearing before the city council last March. Like many others testifying, Russell expressed his "whole hearted approval" of the concept put forth in the bill, but was concerned with some of its provisions and the need for more time.

In contrast, Denard said in an interview (see box) that "the more issues that germinate the harder it will become to come to a conclusion. We have to get started and not waste time." He believes the council should pass the bill and let the trustees worry about the specific structure.

But many feel there are inherent problems in the bill. One of its most politically sensitive issues is whether the union of all three institutions is either necessary, educationally advantageous or wise.

"Given the differences in goals, ideologies, operational procedures, philosophies and purposes, the merging of a technical institute with a university such as FCC or DCTC is ludicrous," says Rhody McCoy, Dean of the FCC School of Continuing Education.

Although the bill requires that "proper priority in terms of funding" be given to all educational areas, many feel that this will present numerous problems.

"There is not that much advantage in putting them together," said Richard Siegel, Director of Development at FCC. "It's very important to have both a technical school and higher education programs. The Chase Commission pointed out that the administrative union of the two facilities into a single institution would seriously compromise one or the other or both. The structure recommended in the bill is only duplicated in Guam and the US Virgin Islands. I guess it's befitting of the District to follow in the footsteps of its sister colonies. It is all part of a rotten bill."

One member of the council's education committee said: "I get the strong feeling that this council had not intended for serious review of the bill. It was set up as a committee of one, and it has not yet been formally introduced. It's the most inconspicuous bill around here and it's critical. It could set the future relationship of public higher education in this town. We have to get serious about this bill because we are being sold down the river."

Along with the question of who should or shouldn't be consolidated, issues about the selection of trustees and their power, and the use of grants and donations are paramount. There is also the question of how you can have a university without adequate funding or graduate programs.

The bill sets of the governance of UDC under a fifteen member board of trustees. Twelve of these are nominated by the mayor; four need not be DC residents. All are subject to confirmation by the council. One member would be appointed by the

(Please turn to page 8)

Notes from school

SAM SMITH

THE ACADEMIC DOUG MOORE

MAY 5: Listening to Doug Moore warm to his defense of Barbara Sizemore, I thought I had heard it all before. When he turned his fire on the white press, it suddenly came back. Three years ago. Sitting in the council chamber covering a hearing of the Board of Higher Education, which was moving to dump Harland Randolph, the slick-talking president of FCC. Doug, grabbing on to the issue like a kid on a bike grasping the back of a truck for a free ride down the street, was lightning into the white press for having caused the problems at FCC. He looked at the press table, caught my eye, and I looked back, pasting a faint smile on my face in an attempt to match the one that always seemed to appear like a shadow under his scowl when he was trying to be his angriest. At his worst moments of rhetorical riot, Doug's face gives him away. It seems to be saying, "Don't believe everything I'm saying. I'll be all right as soon as the film stops running."

And he usually is. He snaps out of it, gets back to business and we forget that for awhile we were mad as hell at him. He is an erratic ally but also an itinerant foe. He doesn't hang around an issue too long, so if you don't like what he's up to, wait a week. You'll be on the same side of another case.

THE Zoning Commission, which used to provide copies of hearing transcripts for 4-5 cents a page, is now referring people to commercial reporters who charge \$1-3 a page. Which is one way of discouraging those trouble-making citizens who want to know what's going on.



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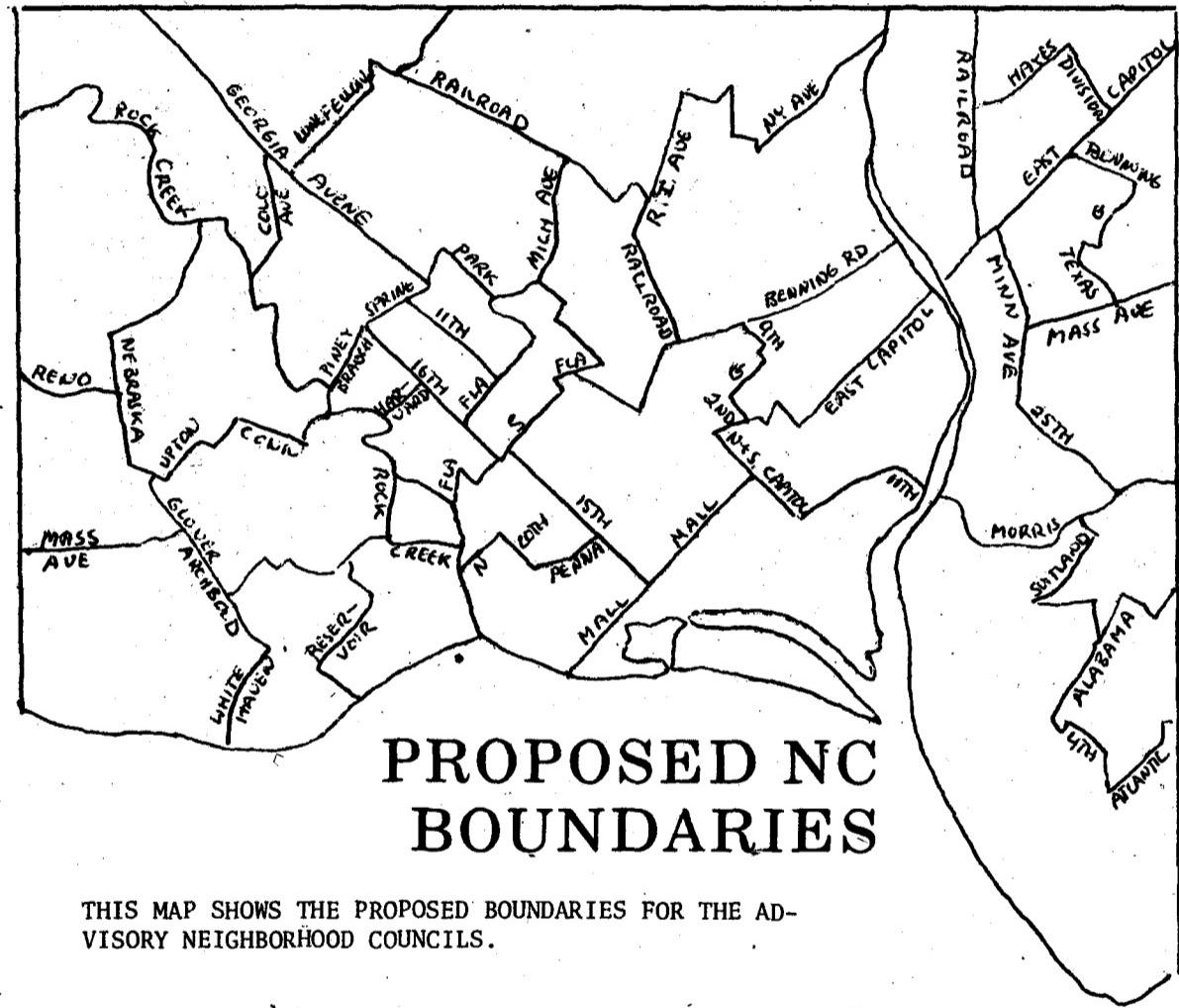
IF GIFT, CARD SHOULD READ FROM _____

Just like with Randolph. Moore zoomed in, won a paragraph in the Star ("The Rev. Douglas Moore, head of the city's Black United Front, referred to some of the faculty as 'black bourgeoisie.' He said that the educational needs of poor blacks would only be damaged by the controversy.") and was gone again.

What's curious about Moore's role in the Randolph and Sizemore controversies is that the city's most loudly self-proclaimed militant came down both times hard on the side of the status quo. The press (yea, verily, the white press) has been making it out that Moore is some sort of radical in the Sizemore dispute. Somehow it's gotten lost that Moore joined forces with four of the most conservative members of the school board, supporting a superintendent who, while talking radical like Moore, is firmly rooted in the tradition of superintendent level centralized, authoritarian, bureaucratic public education.

The truth is that when Harland Randolph was kicked out, his black replacement finally began to get FCC together in a way that Randolph never could have nor was interested in attempting. Not with charisma but with competence. Chances are at least better than average that the school board, too, can do better next time.

The reason is that Randolph and Sizemore are at the end of a tradition rather than at the bow of change. They were hired because it was considered adequate that black education have at its head simply a symbol. The funny thing is, that's a very old fashioned idea. Kind of racist, you might even say. The black teachers opposing Randolph and the teachers, administrators and school board members opposing Sizemore don't believe blacks can make it on the Bible and bombast anymore;



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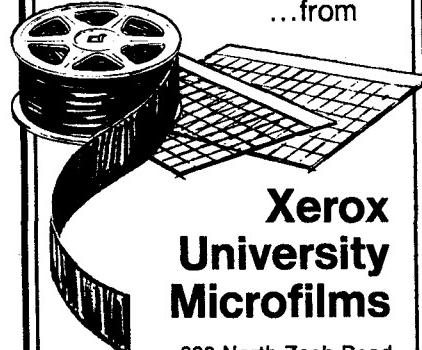
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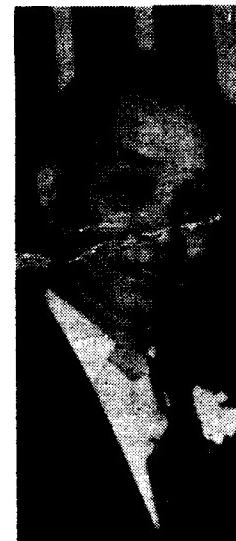
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they know black education can be a lot more than that. They have higher aspirations. It is they who are the changers. Doug Moore, University of Grenoble and all that, likes the old system. At heart, he's just another academic conservative.

WE DIDN'T MEAN AN EYE FOR AN EYE

MAY 12: Asked about the violence at Human Kindness Day at which scores of whites were beaten and one lost an eye, the Reverend Douglas Moore said he was "shocked and outraged." A few days later he visited the man blinded in the fray and told a reporter: "I don't think you should give in to mob rule. . . I don't believe you should rationalize people's social behavior on the basis that they're deprived."

GETTING THE MESSENGER

Bill Raspberry wants to slay the bringers of the bad news that there is no messiah available for the post of superintendent. We've tried a white conservative one, a white liberal one, a black male bureaucrat and a black female "radical." That pretty much covers the messiah market.

The school board should have known. They should have realized that the only times they have gotten along well with the superintendent was when an acting super was holding down the job until the next super-star could be found. Those interregnums were curious times because you would hear people say things like, "What I really wish is that Benjamin Henley would stay in the job." Or, in the case of Sizemore's temporary predecessor, "Why didn't Floretta McKenzie apply for the post?" The school board has had the secret all along, but it was too close for them to see it.

Instead, they went around the country like a bunch of record company A & R men trying to find the singer who's going to produce the next million seller. With that approach (no different, I surmise, than what goes on the superintendent search business generally) they got what they were looking for. Flash. Glitter Education. If they miss some notes, we'll fix it up on the tape.

So the school board was wrong. But why were they wrong? First, because we were wrong. We wanted the school board to find us a combination of Socrates, Malcolm X and William Simon and report back within 60 days with the name. We encouraged them. I know I did. I wouldn't believe Marty Swaim when she told me Barbara Sizemore was going to be trouble. I didn't want to believe her. I wanted it to work out the way it was supposed to.

Secondly, the school board was wrong because a succession of fast-talking paper-pilers on the make managed to convince the school board long enough to get themselves hired that they knew how to run a school system. The board was flim-flammed. They stand guilty of gross optimism. The rest of the charges should be dismissed. Take Raspberry's approach out a ways and you could develop a theory that anyone who gets his pocket picked three times should be thrown in jail. Or put his approach up against the wall of reality and he should be forming a committee to bring back Hanson, Manning or Scott. If the board was so wrong, then surely they should be given a second chance. Ridiculous, huh? Why? Because nobody wants Hanson, Manning or Scott back again. Because the school board, in its bumbling way, was right.

I might be more sympathetic to Bill's views if I thought the school board was going to fall for the old put your \$40,000 in this envelope and I'll run upstairs and get you the best little piece of educational ass you ever saw routine again. But I think they've been fleeced for the last time. And that's good because it means we can end our welfare program for high-level educational hustlers and find someone who will concentrate on the advancement of the children ahead of that of the superintendent.

So please don't shoot the school board. It's not very pleasant to hear the bad news that we've been taken again, but at least they have the courage to admit it.

LEGAL INTERPRETATION

It's not just simply a matter of race but race is 99 and 44/100 percent of it — DeLong Harris, Barbara Sizemore's lawyer

GETTING WHITEY FROM THE TOP FLOOR OF THE PRESIDENTIAL BUILDING

Barbara Sizemore might have been gone by now if it hadn't been for that speech. It was as magnificently timed as it was irrelevant to the controversy between the board and herself. Even the fact that her primary opponent was also a black woman disappeared in the smoke. Nobody had to talk about education anymore. Like how the teachers' union was opposed to Sizemore — or why her top staff hadn't rallied around her like it was supposed to. Now it was a matter of faith and racial loyalty. Out of the temporal and into the spiritual. An impregnable fortress.

And thus the little white folks, more than two hundred thousand of them, got libeled. Not the big white folks — the

TWO NEWS RELEASES THAT GOT LOST IN THE SHUFFLE

WHAT with the Sizemore lobby grabbing all the news space by breaking up meetings and such, you may not have heard the opinion of two of the most important education groups in the city. Below are the statements on the dispute by the Congress of PTAs and the DC Citizens for Better Public Education.

STATEMENT OF THE CONGRESS OF PTAS

WHEREAS over the past 18 months the citizens of the District of Columbia have been witness to a series of confrontations between the elected Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools; and

WHEREAS such confrontations do not create a climate of learning for the children and youth in the public schools; and

WHEREAS such confrontations do much to undermine staff morale and destroy the community's confidence in the public schools;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the D.C. PTA demand the Board of Education accept its responsibility as the policy-making and goal-setting body for the D.C. school system, recognizing the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools to implement and translate the policies into action, and further recognizing the Superintendent's right to handle day-to-day administration of the school system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the D.C. PTA demand the Superintendent accept responsibility for administering the system, and for implementing Board-approved policies whether or not the policies were recommended by the Superintendent, recognizing that failure to do so amounts to insubordination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the D.C. PTA, whose major concern is the welfare and education of all children in the District of Columbia public schools, adopt a watchdog role to see that both sides adhere to these defined functions.

STATEMENT OF THE DC CITIZENS FOR BETTER PUBLIC EDUCATION

(1) We affirm our support for the statement on the roles and responsibilities of the Board and Superintendent recently adopted by the D.C. Congress of Parents and Teachers.

(2) The current impasse between the Board and the Superintendent must be speedily resolved, in the interests of both sides and in the broader public interest. It would serve no useful purpose to delay this for 60 days.

(3) In resolving this dispute, administrative due process, protecting the rights of all parties, must be carefully observed. Public confidence in this procedure must be restored; to do so, personality attacks and emotional appeals must be avoided. We reject the aggressive tactics recently employed to disrupt or pressure the Board.

(4) The Board and Administration must continue to deal with other pressing needs of the school system, and not allow this dispute to paralyze the system.

people Barbara Sizemore, Doug Moore and Walter Washington make deals with, give the contracts to, fill the upper level slots of the District Building with — but all of us. And because you were white and the beneficiary of a racist tradition you were supposed to take it contritely and humbly.

But it doesn't work like that. Most black leaders in this town know that it will be a long time before a white can run successfully for mayor, city council chairman, an at-large seat or become school superintendent. They know that the two hundred thousand whites who form the major minority in this town are at worst a bother. At best, through tacit acceptance or active support, they've helped the rise of the current black leadership. If most of them had voted along racial lines, the politics of this city would be quite different. But the fact from the recent past is that the majority of white residents of DC have not opposed the desire of the black majority on a single major issue. Either reluctantly or enthusiastically, they have accepted black political hegemony. Even the Washington Post poll on Sizemore turned up only 29% of whites supporting the firing of the superintendent. There are differences — why not? — but the aggregate of them leave blacks in control of local politics in DC.

The problem is with the big white folks. Congress, the Board of Trade, zoning lawyers, etc. Well, the rest of the whites in DC aren't going to take the rap for the moguls — especially as long as the Board of Trade gets its every project subsidized by the local black government. Mau-mauing the white community may be a fair tactic when you are on the way up, but when you're earning \$40,000 a year as head of the school system or sitting as chairman pro tem of the city council it lacks a certain credibility. Worse, it becomes potentially dangerous. If whites feel unfairly attacked, they have reason to. If they are worried by the combination of anti-white rhetoric and the power to turn it into reality, they have reason for that, too. It is that combination that turns racial grievances into operational racism.

DOES ANYBODY REMEMBER WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING ABOUT?

There are some real issues between the school board and Barbara Sizemore as the board's complaint will no doubt specify. The board has been attempting to do a difficult thing: fulfill its responsibility to oversee the school system. There's an easy way for a legislative body to avoid controversy. Don't ask questions. Or ask them and be satisfied with inadequate answers. The city council does it this way and you don't see them getting into long hassles with the mayor. The school board has been trying to take its legislative responsibility seriously. It understands that the superintendent is hired to carry out the policy directives of the board and that the line between the powers of the board and the superintendent are where the board says it is. Congress may abdicate its legislative function to the president, the council its to the mayor, but the school board apparently still believes that in a democracy the legislature should be more than a seal of good housekeeping for bureaucrats who run the show. It's hard for Americans, so accustomed to bureaucratic autocracy, to run up against democracy, with all its conflicts, confusion and lack of illusory order. Democracy just isn't that popular. That's why most times a school board is going to lose a popularity poll to a superintendent.

Then there are the phoney issues. One is race. Another is decentralization. The Post speaks of Sizemore's "controversial" decentralization plan. In fact, both the board and the superintendent favor decentralization, but some members of the board have been disillusioned by Barbara Sizemore's concept of decentralization which, like her view of her role as superintendent, seems largely a symbolic one. The power remains mostly downtown and any power that has been diffused hasn't been identified so you don't know whether it's there unless you try to take it. The board members in favor of decentralization assumed that there would be regional power as well as regional superintendents. But Sizemore, like Hansen, Manning and Scott before her, is jealous of those who would assume her power. She talks decentralization but acts autocracy.

One of the prime qualifications for the next superintendent should be complete replaceability. The person at the top should share power to a degree that the system merely flutters upon the change of an administration. Then you would know you had decentralization.

THE INVISIBLE MAYOR

Several good sources have told me that the mayor passed the word to the school board that it was time to move against the superintendent. He didn't want Sizemore embarrassing him before congressional appropriations committees or having to apologize for her himself. Then the Goodwin crowd moved into the council chambers and the mayor put on his disappearing act. When the council passed a resolution urging the school board to delay action for 60 days, the mayor showed up just long enough to sign it. Then he vanished again. If he was at all ashamed of his role in undercutting the school board he didn't show it.

THE HAWTHORNE-YOUTH ORCHESTRA AFFAIR

Nothing illustrates the weakness of Sizemore's position better than her attempt to make a major issue out of the Hawthorne School and the DC Youth Orchestra, two projects in which the school system is cooperatively involved, much to the superintendent's displeasure. The DC Youth Orchestra, it is implied, teaches racist white European music and Hawthorne is just a crash pad for white hippies. Even if she's justified in her criticism (which seems unlikely), it's a bit like Ford blaming Congress for causing inflation by raising the price of cheeseburgers in the Senate dining room.

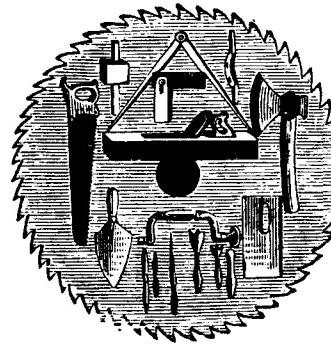
THE REAL SIZEMORE PROBLEMS

The real problem with Sizemore is not that she can't get on with whites or with the board or that her ideas are unacceptable. It is that she seems to have a hard time getting on with people generally, can't organize her ideas into effective action and can't take care of all the management details that even a prophet has to face these days.

She constantly gives people a simple choice: for or against her. We had a president like that once and after standing by him year after year in the popularity polls, the American people slowly became to realize that his personal insecurity had enveloped all of us and we were being dragged down to save him. Then America made a choice: for itself. Barbara Sizemore wants the city to solve her problems. We can't do it because there's too much other business to take care of. Buoyed by the Washington Post poll she no doubt will try to hang on. Meanwhile, those unfortunate souls who must deal with Sizemore, the uncomfortable reality (as opposed to Sizemore, the popular myth) will continue to be chastised for no longer believing what the majority fervently wants to believe. Those who would retain Sizemore should be required to work with her for a month.

THE COUNCIL: PROFILE IN FEAR AND OPPORTUNISM

Unlike the board, the teachers and Sizemore's administrative staff, the city council has had the luxury of believing the myth. It played the fantasy to the hilt, saving its own political skin, undermining the school board, but finally, even



WOOD CHIPS

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CARR STRIKES AGAIN

The Oliver T. Carr Company land grab machine has shifted into high gear once again. The latest victim is another light industrial area, Buzzard's Point. Carr's Buzzard Point scheme is identical to his West End development plan which called for the construction of high rise, glass box office buildings and luxury priced apartments. The Carr Company will ask the Zoning Commission to impose a sectional development plan similar to the one it initiated in the West End, which will force hundreds of blue collar jobs out of the city since the plan will prohibit existing plants from expanding.

In addition to the Buzzards Point and West End, the Carr Company has surfaced in other real estate moves such as:

- Constructing the all-electric office building at Connecticut and M NW.
- Moving Doctors Hospital to clear the way for the International Chancery complex at 19th & I NW.
- Attempting to become one of the prime developers of the Willard Hotel at 14th & Penna. Ave. NW. Carr controls the development rights to the old Occidental Restaurant next door and he has received a grant from the National Historic Trust to conduct a feasibility study of the Willard for the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation.

THE SPECULATION TAX

Although reports from Vermont where it was used to stem the tide of ski developments and second homes indicate that it was highly successful, the speculation tax introduced by Davide Clarke and Nadine Winter (there'll be hearings on it this month) does have several potential harmful side effects. Whatever its virtues, people should realize that it is not a housing program. Tax legislation can not serve as a substitute for a citywide plan to increase a housing supply diminished by red-lining, the tight money market, the Redevelopment Land Agency's reckless use of eminent domain and HUD's cancellation of the 235 and 236 financial programs. This measure will not stop developers from assembling land parcels. Instead of the present house-by-house pattern of speculation, developers or RLA might bulldoze entire blocks and construct Southwest style planned unit developments or build high priced mini-blocks similar to 14th & R NW.

This tax might face a court challenge on two constitutional questions: whether the tax results in taking of property without compensation in violation of the due process clause and whether the tax denies due process by retroactively taking value increases accrued prior to its enactment.

TRASH FACTORY

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THE GAZETTE BOOKSHELF

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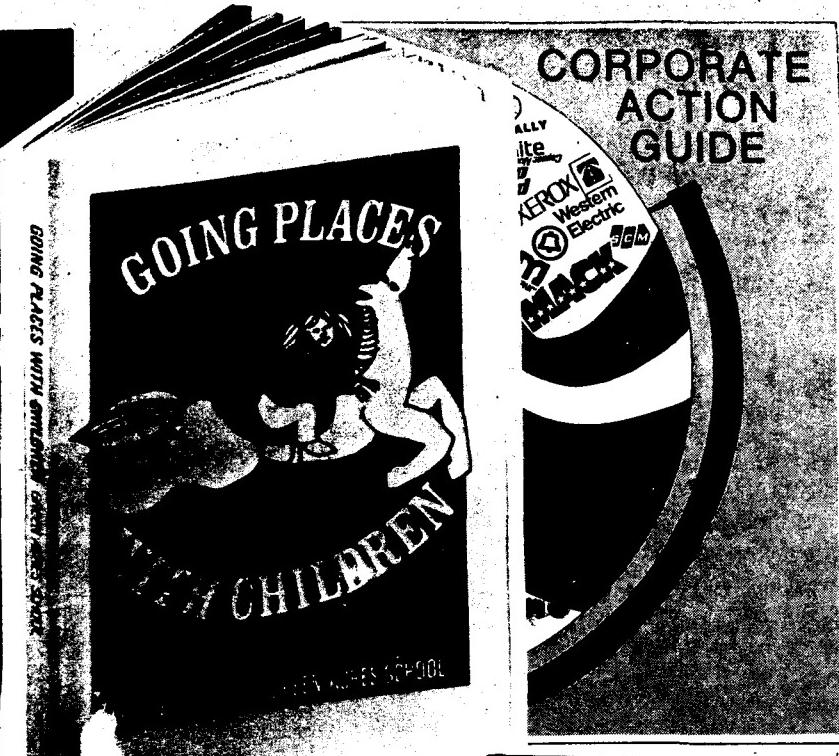
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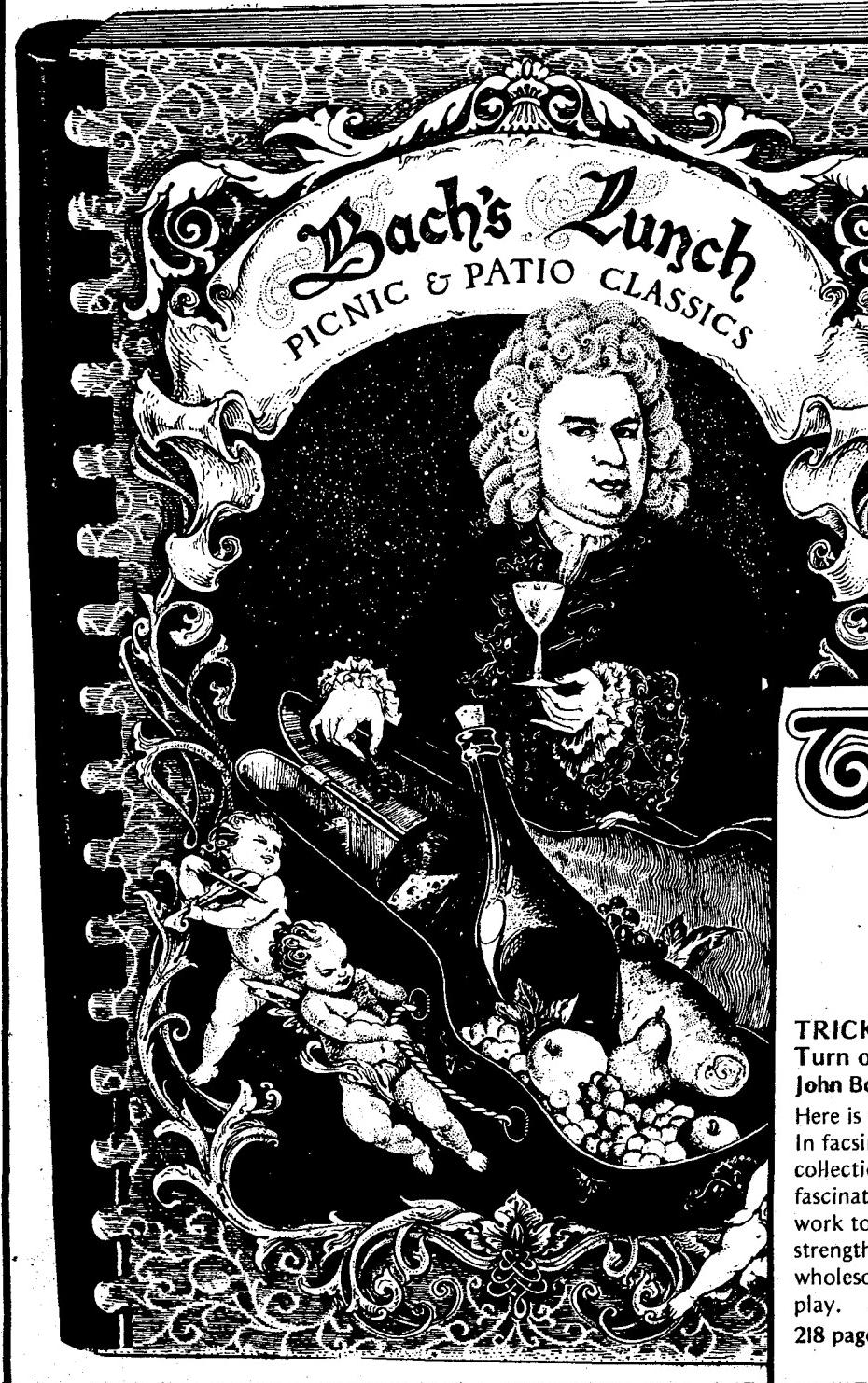
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THE GAZETTE BOOKSHELF

WASHINGTON

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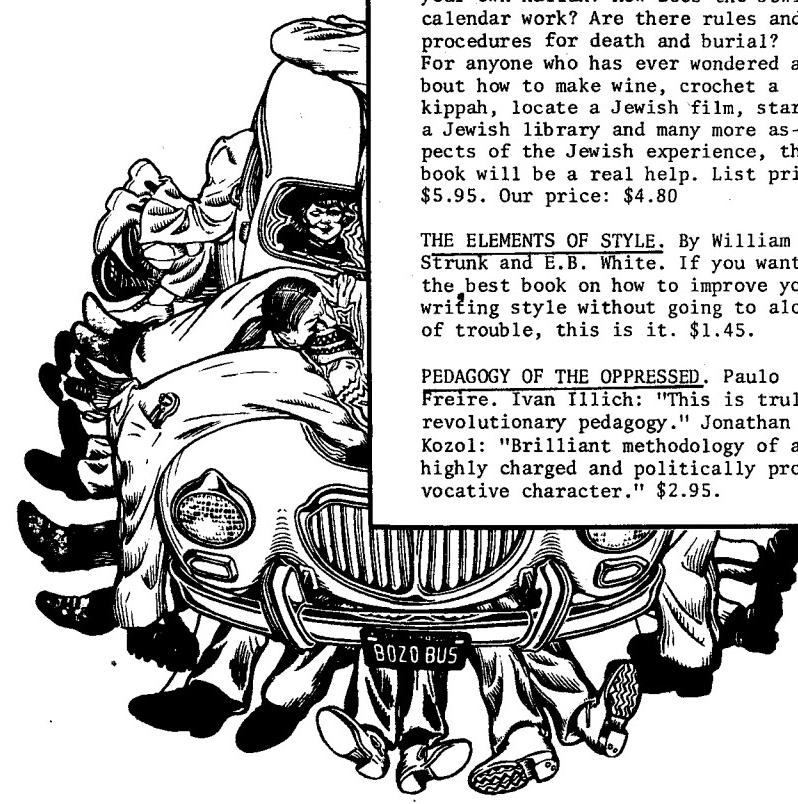
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Rick Greenspan, Lowell Turner, Ann Wagner, et. al.

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in the eyes of some its members, looking a bit foolish. The school board, which had put up with Ruth Goodwin's antics and Barbara Sizemore's erratic performance for months, refused to back down. But for the new crowd at the District Building, the thought of people protesting your true blue home rule activist progressive we're listening to the voters city council was a bit hard to take. Too hard. Just two meetings were interrupted but that was enough to have the council declare an emergency in the public schools, veer sharply towards attempting to force the school board to drop the whole matter for sixty days, then step away from the confrontation to pass its resolution "strongly urging" the same course. It was a profile in fear mixed with political opportunism. The proportion of the ingredients varied by council member. Polly Shakleton kept quiet and looked like she had a worse case of indigestion than Eric Severeid. Others were vocally unctuous. Marion Barry seemed afraid that if he looked down he might lose his balance and fall into space. John Wilson introduced a note of honesty into the affair, calling the emergency resolution a "cheap thrill" and saying that he was going to vote for it only because "I don't want telephone calls at midnight." And Julius Hobson Sr., the only black leader outside of the school board to speak out against Sizemore during those critical, fluid days in May, turned and walked out.

By the next day the council was apparently feeling a bit ashamed. John Wilson asked the board to forgive him for one of the most stupid votes he had ever cast. Dave Clarke said it was "a little scary" that the council had come so close to attempting to seize control of the school board. "It appears that there isn't enough respect for the democratic process," he added. One observer commented that the council members sounded like a bunch of drunks saying they were sorry for the night before.

THE LONG VIEW

If twelve or 1500 schools are to be placed under one general administration, an attention so divided will amount to a dereliction of them to themselves. It is surely better then to place each school at once under the care of those most interested in its conduct. — THOMAS JEFFERSON, 1817

Redrawing boundaries

EDITH LAMPSON

COUNCILMEMBER Arrington Dixon has introduced legislation that would redraw ward boundaries to conform to census tracts and reunite four neighborhoods divided by the present ward lines. At present, 17 census tracts are split by ward boundaries. Census tracts are the source of most of the demographic data vital to understand the needs of neighborhoods. In Dixon's words, "Only by having an accurate picture of a ward can we begin to deal with some of its basic problems. For example, it is only by knowing that X percent of the residents in a ward do not have full plumbing facilities that a council member can direct the appropriate service agency to take effective action or introduce corrective legislation." The boundary change would result in a population shift of about 2600 people in five of the eight wards and 6000 people in the other three wards and would keep the wards nearly equal in population.

Dixon's bill also suggests the changing of boundaries of the Service Area Committees to conform to ward boundaries. As Ben Gilbert, the head of the Municipal Planning Office, pointed out during a hearing on Dixon's bill before a council committee last month, this could not be done unless ward boundaries were redrawn to conform to census tract boundaries because the Service Area Committees are dependent on census tracts for demographic information necessary to coordinate city services such as recreation and sanitation.

The consensus among witnesses at the hearing was strongly in favor of the Dixon bill. Gilbert warned, however, that while he favored integration of ward and SAC boundaries, some city agencies might not be able to conform strictly to ward boundaries — specifically the schools because of their locations and the police force because of cases like that of Ward Six, which is split by the Anacostia and consequently divided into separate police districts.

Some witnesses spoke against excessive reliance on census tracts as representative of neighborhoods, including Doug Harbrite of the North Dupont Circle Association, who proposed redrawing ward and precinct boundaries along the lines of the Advisory Neighborhood Councils. But the only real dissenter was Leaford Williams of the Citizens Commission on Elections and Ethics, who felt that the idea should be tabled for five years because it was too complicated and costly.

Dixon is proposing a number of election reforms in a series of bills that he is introducing, including legislation that would permit postcard registration, grant the vote to felons and ex-felons, move the presidential primary here to early March and provide a procedure for citizens to put referenda on the ballot.

UNIVERSITY CONTINUED

alumni association of each of the three schools. Any member may be an employee of the US or DC government, unless they hold positions in clear conflict of interest."

"Anyone appointed by the mayor is by their very nature in conflict of interest," one source said. "If the university for any reason has to bring suit against the city, those representing it will also be representing the mayor. It is also important, as council member Doug Moore pointed out during hearings, that we have representation from all over the city."

Dennard's View

SEATED in his modernized office, a TV monitoring system in one corner, the remnants of what used to be an office of the National Bureau of Standards peeking through charts and graphs, Dr. Cleveland Dennard, WTI President, discussed the UDC bill. He spoke with a calm, almost hypnotic manner. Behind him is a poster that reads: THERE IS NO HEAVIER BURDEN THAN A GREAT POTENTIAL!

"The enactment of the UDC bill by the City Council is an important action, one of the most important in the council's first year of operation. It will provide an opportunity to develop compatibility with several states in our ability to provide post-secondary education for DC citizens.

"A single university presupposes that the organization of programmatic offerings would be rationally carried out. It would be efficient and effective, and geared to meet the DC public's needs. At the moment there is no comprehensive effort to develop public higher education because responsibility has been divided between the two boards (the Board of Higher Education and the Board of Vocational Education). We need a singleness of perspective to look at the total needs of the city.

"Problems? I don't see insurmountable problems in the process of consolidation. The most difficult part is providing the land and the facilities. The major problem is one of physically identifying the university."

Across the street from WTI is its new \$100 million campus. FCC and DCTC have also been building new campus structures. Given this situation, Dennard suggested that a "total satellite operation may be best."

He finds the bill "sufficiently wide in scope" to allow for the real formation of the university structure by the trustees, rather than by the council. "I don't see why the power of the trustees should be a problem in view of the responsibility of the legislative body to oversee their actions. If there is an inconsistent interpretation, reasonable men will address the issue via the amendment process. Remember, the city council has to approve the mayor's nominations. There are checks and balances in the system."

He leans back in his chair and with a self-assured smile adds: "The trustees will decide what the crucial needs of the city are, and the institution will reflect those needs. The sooner this gets underway, the better. I am very hopeful."

The major issue with the trustees, however, is the amount of power they will have. There are numerous provisional restraints, epitomized in the comment of councilmember Spaulding: "We can give them the power; we can take it away."

"Congress is saying in this bill that they don't trust the trustees," commented Siegel. "They want control over monies, grants and fees. If grant money ever reached a greater amount than what's appropriated then Congress would lose control. However, that is very unlikely given the way the bill is set up."

Under section 403 all grant and endowment monies are deposited in the US Treasury and may be invested as trust funds of the city. Siegel pointed out that "People don't want their money mixed up with tax money. The fact that Congress could appropriate this [money] could jeopardize the donor's intent. The difference between a moderate university and one striving for excellence is its ability to raise funds from private sources. As this is written there is no way they can raise money."

Under the provisions of the bill, trustees must submit an annual budget to the mayor just as the three institutions do now. Their combined budgets for this fiscal year were \$34 million; \$43 million has been requested for next fiscal year. The mayor and city council would be responsible for establishing the maximum amount of funds and include this in the city's

budget to be approved by Congress. Several sources commented that this bill simply creates another government agency. Said one: "You could take out the word 'University' and substitute the Sanitation Department. It's the same thing."

And what if the bill is reported out of committee and passed as is?

"Then you will see just what you see in the public schools," said McCoy. "Pandemonium!"

BYE, BYE, BICENTENNIAL BONUS

The Mayor requests increases of \$5.5 million and 22 positions to fund the expenses of the Bicentennial Program. These funds are recommended to pay for the expenses the city might incur due to visitors coming into the District in the spring, summer and early fall of 1976. . . It has been assumed that the Bicentennial will greatly aid the city by bringing in new revenue mostly in the area of additional sales tax collections. However, sales tax revenue forecasts of the Department of Finance and Revenue. . . do not bear out any great windfall in this area. Indeed, the total growth from [FY 1975 to FY 1977] due to the Bicentennial celebration in expected sales tax revenues for the entire city is not projected to exceed \$5 million. While we hope these estimates are conservative, if we are to believe the estimates of the city's Department of Finance & Revenue, whose projections in the past have been within 2% of actual collections, we might doubt that the city will reap a full tax return on their proposed \$5.5 million for the provision of Bicentennial Services. Indeed to present a fair picture, the additional indirect costs of the expected visitors to the city such as congestion, noise and waste should be considered also.

- CITY COUNCIL REPORT ON THE BUDGET

ior high schools to explain the document. He is also monitoring suspensions at two schools, Hine and Kramer, which have the highest suspension rate in the city, to see that due process is accorded students. Says Warren: "The problems seem greater in the junior highs; the school administrators are so overworked the kids back up like cars at rush hour."

James Williams, assistant principal at Hart Junior High, said that he had studied the bill of rights and supported the concept "one hundred percent." He noted that the school board left it to the schools to publicize the document. Although the local school committee recently held a hearing on the bill, only one child in a class of fifteen American History students had even heard about it. Although they could tell a visitor about the mayor's budget, they knew nothing about a set of rules designed to protect them.

According to Robert Thomas, assistant principal at Kramer Junior High, "The document hasn't been presented to them [the students] as it should have been." He discussed the bill in individual classes but has never held an assembly to discuss it.

A student at Hine had this to say: "The kids told Thompson [the principal] they couldn't expell us because we late for class. We've read the paper. Thompson told us some of those things don't mean what they say. . . He won't tell us what the rules were about.

"Expelling people is hard on your work. They gave a boy 15 days. That's half an advisory period. What's that boy going to do? The rules here aren't posted. If they are, I never see 'em and I walk around here eight hours a day."

Audrey Colom of the Children's Defense Fund, an organization that intervenes in disciplinary hearings and acts as an advocate for children's rights, stated, "The majority of parents work; it is difficult for them to attend hearings during the day. Ninety percent of the parents are not informed that the students have rights. It is a natural tendency on the part of the parent to take the side of authority in a proceeding with the school. Therefore, it's important to get the matter before an uninvolved third party and make sure the child's views are heard.

"We are asking the school system to educate the principals on the Student Bill of Rights. We are asking the board's legal counsel to spell out very specifically cases where the children are entitled to a hearing. The Children's Defense Fund will hold seminars in the community so parents know what to do the next time their kid gets suspended. Suspension hearings can be an opportunity to request counseling or testing for the children, to ask that they be put into a roving leader's program or Big Brothers. They are also the time to make sure the child's record is clean. This is important because the records follow the child around and once he gets labelled as a troublemaker, there is a tendency for the child to respond accordingly.

Colom talked about the wider problem of suspensions as a means of dealing with discipline. "In DC lots of students are suspended for violations of school policy that are not violent. Children are suspended for hocking, tardiness, cutting classes, verbal confrontations with school administrators. We believe the only grounds for suspension ought to be destruction or physical harm. If school was the place to be for kids, if the kids felt a part of school, then the disciplinary problems would not be as great."

Students at Hart confirmed Colom's observations. "You get suspended for smoking, popping gum, talking back to a teacher, cutting classes." Williams explained: "I suspend kids for being late because they've got to learn that as adults if they consistently show up five minutes late for their jobs they will be fired. I figure the quicker they learn to be on time the better for them."

Colom said she also found incidents of principals transferring "problem" children to other schools. In one case a child was transferred due to personal antagonism between him and the principal. When the child went to the other school, the administration refused to admit him because of his history of trouble with the principal at his former school. At the date of the interview the child had been out of school a month with no supplemental schoolwork. His parents thought it likely that he would drop out.

Robert Burch of the Office of Pupil Personnel sets up disciplinary hearings. He termed the case "the most screwed up I've seen in twenty years in the system." He indicated that

When kids get in trouble

ANNE CHASE

THE policy of the DC schools on student discipline as set out in the Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities is very clear.

On paper.

Students are prohibited from and can be suspended for "the intentional use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation or other comparable conduct. . . which causes or attempts to cause substantial disruption or obstruction of any lawful mission, process or function of the public schools;" damaging or stealing school or other property; possessing firearms; sexual molestation; selling or taking drugs; threatening people in order to force them to take a certain action and "intentionally acting in such a manner which could reasonably place another person in danger of physical injury or harm." A student, however, may act in self-defense. Finally, students may be suspended for "repeated failure to comply with lawful orders of principals, teachers or other authorized school personnel while properly under their authority or supervision, where such repeated failure to comply constitutes a substantial disruption of the lawful mission, process or function of the public schools."

For these offenses, a student may be suspended for up to ten days after a hearing with school officials, the parents and legal counsel if the student wants it. For other infractions of school rules, students may be suspended for two day periods, although they may not be suspended more than three times during a school term without a hearing.

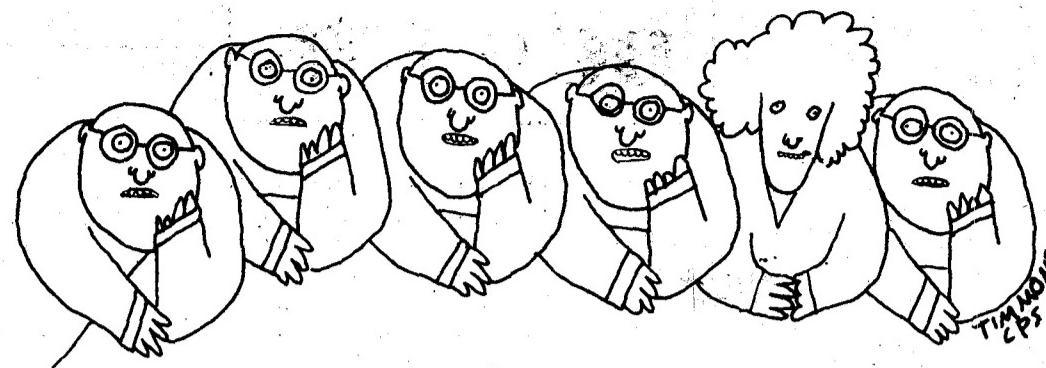
The bill of rights and responsibilities sets out procedures for notifying the parents in the event a hearing is necessary, spelling out services a parent may seek, such as diagnostic testing and complete physical and psychological examinations. (Maybe the child won't pay attention because he can't read and classwork makes no sense; maybe the reason she won't obey commands is that she doesn't hear them.) It also covers how soon the hearing must be held after the child's suspension, alternative education opportunities to be made available if the child is suspended for the full ten days and getting a lawyer if the child has no funds to pay for it.

Every effort is made to protect the student from arbitrary action.

On paper.

First of all, few students are aware of the document or its implications. School board member John Warren says, "Most administrators have not seen the Bill of Rights; they are making generalized decisions on the basis of what they have heard about it." Warren has held assemblies in Ward 6 at several jun-





suspension is a last resort punishment and that counseling for a child is routinely recommended before discipline problems warrant suspension. According to Burch, only about 12 to 15 parents out of 215 disciplinary hearings in the past year requested counsel. "Statistically, it doesn't make any difference if they do or not," he said.

Colom pointed out that the city has three times as many attendance aides as any other school system the Children's Defense Fund had surveyed. Parents, however, repeatedly said they were unaware of their children's absence. She termed it a breakdown of the responsibility of the teachers.

Burch explained that attendance policy was up the individual schools. Some schools contacted the parents after the child was absent three or four days and all generally reached the parents after ten or twelve days. Many educators here feel that the parents are not doing their job of disciplining children properly, and that schools are being asked to do an unmanageable job. Suspension is an admission that the schools cannot do that job. It is saying, "We can't deal with you. Out."

Audrey Colom says, "Although we purport to be interested in the welfare of children in DC we really are not. Adolescent children with problems have virtually nowhere to go. The Mental Health Association's family counseling programs are badly overcrowded and the mental health centers send children to Saint Elizabeths where they get drugs. School counselors have an unmanageable number of students and these children just fall between the cracks."

Food for the city

F. SMITH

THE price of food in DC has increased at a fantastic rate over the last few years and remains among the highest in the nation. In addition, supermarkets are moving out of the city in search of cheaper land in the suburbs. In light of these occurrences, what does the poor, inner-city consumer do? At the Institute for Policy Studies we have developed the Urban Food Project to help cities become more self-sufficient in food production.

The heart of the Urban Food Project is the direct distribution from farmers through farmers' markets and gardens to families as a way to cut out the middle man (supermarket). Some large tracts would be farmed cooperatively as a way to create a food reserve for emergencies. To extend this opportunity to inner-city blacks who are not homeowners, the project would make a careful study of the vacant lots and other publicly owned lands available for gardening. In addition, the project would search out large land sites such as Ft. Lincoln (approximately 150 acres of vacant land), the National Arboretum (approximately 80 acres of vacant land) and Lorton (approximately 1300 acres of vacant land). To these would be added land owned by churches and others who are willing to participate.

NATIONALLY, food prices are related to the monopolistic ways in which the food industry functions. Though it is fashionable to report that profits in the retail food industry are only one to two percent of sales after taxes, the truth is that the chains make profits from food all along the line. Most are integrated companies which grow, process, ship, warehouse and retail (through the supermarkets) their own brands. Though they may purchase a number of name brands from other companies, they make their greatest profit from their own brands. The operations of the companies are broken down into divisions and each division has to make a profit from its operation. Therefore, profits as a percent of retail sales tell very little about the overall profits of a particular chain.

The supermarkets in DC argue that the cost of land is so high that the stores can't make money any more. This is supposed to explain the higher food prices in Washington, while the chains continue to move to the suburbs in search of cheap land and higher profits. Giant had 15 food stores in the District in 1966, now it has a total of seven. Safeway had a total of 80 stores in 1968 and now has approximately 41 stores in DC. An unscientific survey done by the Institute for Policy Studies showed that approximately 33% of DC's supermarkets have closed in the last five years. These closings have left the city without adequate food stores and have contributed to the decline of services to the inner city.

The city government's response to this involves the packaging of certain parcels of land to make them attractive to the food industry. In its February 6 testimony before the

city council, Giant Foods representatives gave some idea of what the city needed to do to attract more supermarkets to the inner city and presumably to increase competition. Giant suggested that the city purchase property and sell it to the chains at cheaper "write down" prices.

There seems to be a great deal of sympathy in the DC government for this subsidy to chain stores. It would, however, fleece the consumer twice — once through higher than average food prices and once more through the use of tax dollars for the subsidy.

Giant Foods is one of the food chains which already sell more than two thirds of the food in DC, according to a 1971 Federal Trade Commission staff report. Therefore, adding more stores from one of these four chains would further increase the concentration which has contributed to higher prices rather than to create competition which would lower prices. At a March 19 city council committee hearing, Washington housing officials reported that Giant representatives had been involved with the Redevelopment Land Agency in the preliminary planning of site selection and packaging. If this is true and if Giant has indeed acted to increase the concentration cited in the FTC report, it is like having the fox watch the hen house. It is at the very least an unethical procedure.

We in the Urban Food Project agree with the food chains that high land costs contribute to high operating costs and perhaps higher prices. We also agree with the use of DC legal authority to finance, package and sell property to food stores in order to guarantee the availability of food to city residents. But we think the practice should be limited to farmers markets and non-profit food stores which offer higher quality food, lower prices and citizen participation.

There is no secret to how you improve quality and drive down the cost of food. You simply grow and process as much as you can on public land in or near the city. Such food does not have to be shipped long distance, thus has lowered trucking and gasoline costs. Food grown on public and privately held non-profit fields and gardens that use organic fertilizers guarantee high quality and lessen the exposure to chemicals. Warehouses and coop stores, helped by the "write down" on leases, could distribute food cheaply and pass the savings on to the consumer. But to be effective, this alternative program must have the clear moral and financial support of the District government and other institutions.

The Urban Food Project will not break the back of the supermarket system. It may, however, hasten the day when the supermarkets no longer sell produce and certain meats because these foods will be produced on urban food reserves.

Studies have shown that when cheap vegetables are made available to people the diet begins to change and contains more vegetable dishes. This improves the quality of the diet and lowers the price of food. It will also break the absolute dependency that DC and other cities have on the chain stores. It might also take some of the demand pressure off the price of meat thus lowering the price of protein and easing hunger in other parts of the world.

(For more on the Urban Food Project, contact Frank Smith at the Institute for Policy Studies, 1901 Que NW, DC 20009 (AD4-9382).

FOUR POWERS FOR THE ANCs

1. Neighborhood councils should be given veto power over the appointment of principals and regional school superintendents and District-level police officials.
2. Neighborhood councils should be informed of any intent on the part of the city government to engage in physical planning in the neighborhood. The neighborhood council should have a minimum of one year, along with adequate planning funds, to prepare its own plan for the neighborhood, prior to any planning by the city government.
3. Any action by a neighborhood council affecting that neighborhood should have the force of law unless overruled by the city council in a record vote.
6. The zoning commission should not be permitted to rezone in a neighborhood without the approval of the neighborhood council.

DC EYE

NOW, let's see. First Woodward and Bernstein did some stories on Watergate. Then Woodward and Bernstein did a book on how they did some stories on Watergate. Then Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman started to make a movie about how Woodward and Bernstein wrote some stories about Watergate. Then the Washington Post did some stories about Redford and Hoffman. Then the Washington Post did a story about how the Washington Post reacted to Redford and Hoffman doing a movie about Woodward and Bernstein. Then the Village Voice did a piece on how the Washington Post wrote its story on how the Post reacted to Redford and Hoffman doing a movie about Woodward and Bernstein. We were going to do a piece on the Village Voice piece on how the Post wrote a story about how it reacted to Redford and Hoffman doing a movie about Woodward and Bernstein but broke our typing fingers going through a door which turned out to be a mirror. But in case anyone out there is still wondering how reporters have become more prominent than the people they cover, send a stamp self-addressed envelope and we'll let you know.

URGENTLY WANTED

AT LEAST ONE LAWYER AND 2-3 PARALEGAL WORKERS FOR THE PINE RIDGE INDIAN RESERVATION.

The Wounded Knee trials are expected to continue for some time. At the same time, trials are running at Custer and Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The Wounded Knee Legal Defense/Offense Committee therefore cannot handle the pressing legal problems on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Indian people who have been in opposition to the incumbent Tribal government are being subjected to a wave of terror and abuse which is mounting daily. Indian people have been subjected to FBI harassment, have had knowledge of their basic rights kept from them by BIA officials. Indian people have been murdered outright.

People who are interested in working must meet the following criteria:

Patience, tolerance, humility (ability to take direction from Indian people), guts (ability to work in dangerous situations), skill in firearms, willingness to put aside material benefits and live as grass roots Indian people, self-discipline, willingness to take part in community activities. Knowledge of Lakota history and culture is required (a reading list will be provided). A security form will be required also. People must be willing to stay at least 6 months.

We cannot promise good living conditions (you may live without running water, electricity, etc.), good working space, or fringe benefits. We can offer plenty of legal experience--criminal, civil and Indian law--and an opportunity to become a HUMAN BEING.

This work would be best suited to a young lawyer who has not already gone into a practice or established a family. It is hoped Indian people can be recruited.

Apply to: Luke Weasel Bear; General Delivery; Oglala, S.Dak.57764.

THE FAST-BUCK housing speculators have gotten together to fight the proposed speculation tax, which comes up for council hearing this month. We managed to have a correspondent attend one of their meetings and he passed on some choice quotes, towit:

John O'Neil, president of the local owners and builders association, on the city council: "Out of the mouths of these people have come the most stupid, inane and economically illiterate decisions as have ever been made in a community such as Washington."

One speculator suggested that they hire Judge Marjorie Lawson's old law firm "for political reasons."

Said James Taylor on lobbying the council: "Get to know what makes these people tick. Understand that they will be at your door for campaign contributions."

Another real estate dealer: "Except for Sterling Tucker and Marion Barry, everyone on the council is their own man."

LEST you think the news is all bad we are pleased to pass on the word that Judge Edward Beard is going to retire from the bench. . . It is also good to hear that Wilhelmina Rolark, a black attorney with many years of activism behind her, has been nominated for a judgeship.

FOR reasons best known to itself the Washington Post keeps Jerry "May-Day" Wilson on the payroll. As a compromise, however, it has dropped Dick Tracy. Low readership is the apparent reason.

AD RATES

\$1 per column inch
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CALL - DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

MARY C. HODGES - RECRUITER

TELEPHONE: 629-5611

WPAC, the newly licensed Pacifica radio station in town, needs about \$150,000 to get on the air. If you want some first-rate alternative radio in town, send a few bucks to Pacifica, National Press Building, 14th & F NW, DC 20004.

THE MASS transit award of the month goes to the Smithsonian Institution for beginning free double-decker bus service between the Museum of History and Technology and the National Portrait Gallery. They seem to be a bit more imaginative at the Smithsonian than at Metro. Maybe they'd like to take over the 30 route next.

THE CULINARY AWARD of the month goes to the Friends of the National Zoo, which has seized control of the food concession at the zoo. The zoo has long featured natural phenomena with one notable exception - in its cafeteria. There the food has not been fit for a Macke vice president, so it should be a considerable improvement to eat with a FONZ.

DURING OUR LENGTHY BATTLE AGAINST the convention center, we didn't realize how lucky we were. Up in New York City, where they're not quite as smart and so still are going ahead with plans for a convention center, the consultant in charge of preparing an independent report on the environmental impact of the center was ordered by convention officials to come up with a report favorable to the center and was threatened with bodily harm if he failed to do so, according to the New York Times.

BACK ISSUES

IF you missed any of these important issues, you can order them for 50¢ each.

[] FEBRUARY 1975. How the city could save millions by cutting short Metro as well as an outline for a more efficient and less costly mass transit system.

[] MARCH 1975. How a tax on stocks and bonds would make the property tax fairer and raise new revenue for the city.

[] APRIL 1975. Part one of a two part series on neighborhood government. What the neighborhood councils could become. Plus an article comparing DC city expenditures with those of other cities.

[] MAY 1975. Part two of our series on neighborhood government. . . A unique and exciting neighborhood-centered solution to the city trash problem.

Please send me the items checked above. I enclose 50¢ for each one.

Name.....
Address.....
.....Zip.....

THE WASHINGTON POST, which has been telling us for years about how various huge subsidies to the Board of Trade and downtown big business would "revitalize" center city found itself a bit embarrassed when RLA couldn't pawn off a \$75 million area around 12th & G NW. Two Metro lines will meet there but even so, there weren't buyers. But the Post doesn't stay down in the mouth for long on such matters and discovered new hope for 12th & G in Alice Denney's arts center at 1227 G NW. The Post wrote a long editorial that said, among other things, "the incentive to go downtown, in fact, is not increased by huge \$75 million

buildings." (Now is a hell of a time for the Post to be finding that out.)

So if big buildings and Metro won't do it, what will? According to the Post, the salvation lies in restoration, attractive new signs "and a color scheme that harmonizes with the architecture," as well as projects such as Ms. Denney's. The building she occupies could be fully restored, says the Post, and "it would be a good way to launch the revitalization and rehabilitation of historic G Street."

All of which makes considerable sense, but it does make us wonder why we spent all that money and kicked out all those small businesses in order to go in a different direction.

ONE OF THE SORRIEST PERFORMANCES by a DC official recently was the testimony of William Robertson, director of the city's consumer affairs office. Robertson, speaking at council budget hearings, admitted that in 14 months the office had issued no cease and desist orders, revoked or suspended no licenses, sought no injunctions and gone to court against a business in only two cases. It costs us \$286,000 a year to fund such activity. As Polly Shackleton told the glib Robertson, "I'm not satisfied with your answers. We're not getting any answers from you, just a lot of hot air."

TRIAL BY JURY. — FOR THE JURORS

FOR citizens who value their freedom and dignity, the DC Superior Court represents such jeopardy to both that many plan to remove their names from the voting rolls.

Jurors are selected from the voter registration list by computer. Almost none may be excused from serving.

In April, 336 jurors were pressed into service, at a minimum cost of \$20 per day, less than they needed to live on but still a total of \$6720 per day or \$147,840 per month. This is not the full cost, however. One hundred and thirty six of these jurors were District or federal employees receiving their regular wages for whom substitute workers often had to be paid.

On the first Friday of April the jurors were herded into the Pension Building at 830 am to stand in long lines according to surnames. At around 1030 they were finally allowed to hear Judge Ryan's lengthy explication on the need for jurors.

Next they went to the jury lounge on the third floor. Here jurors were incarcerated for a month, except for one hour at lunch. Daily roll call was at nine am (although no court convened before ten). Dismissal times were arbitrary - sometimes around 5 pm for those in the lounge; but judges kept jurors well into the evening with no previous warning.

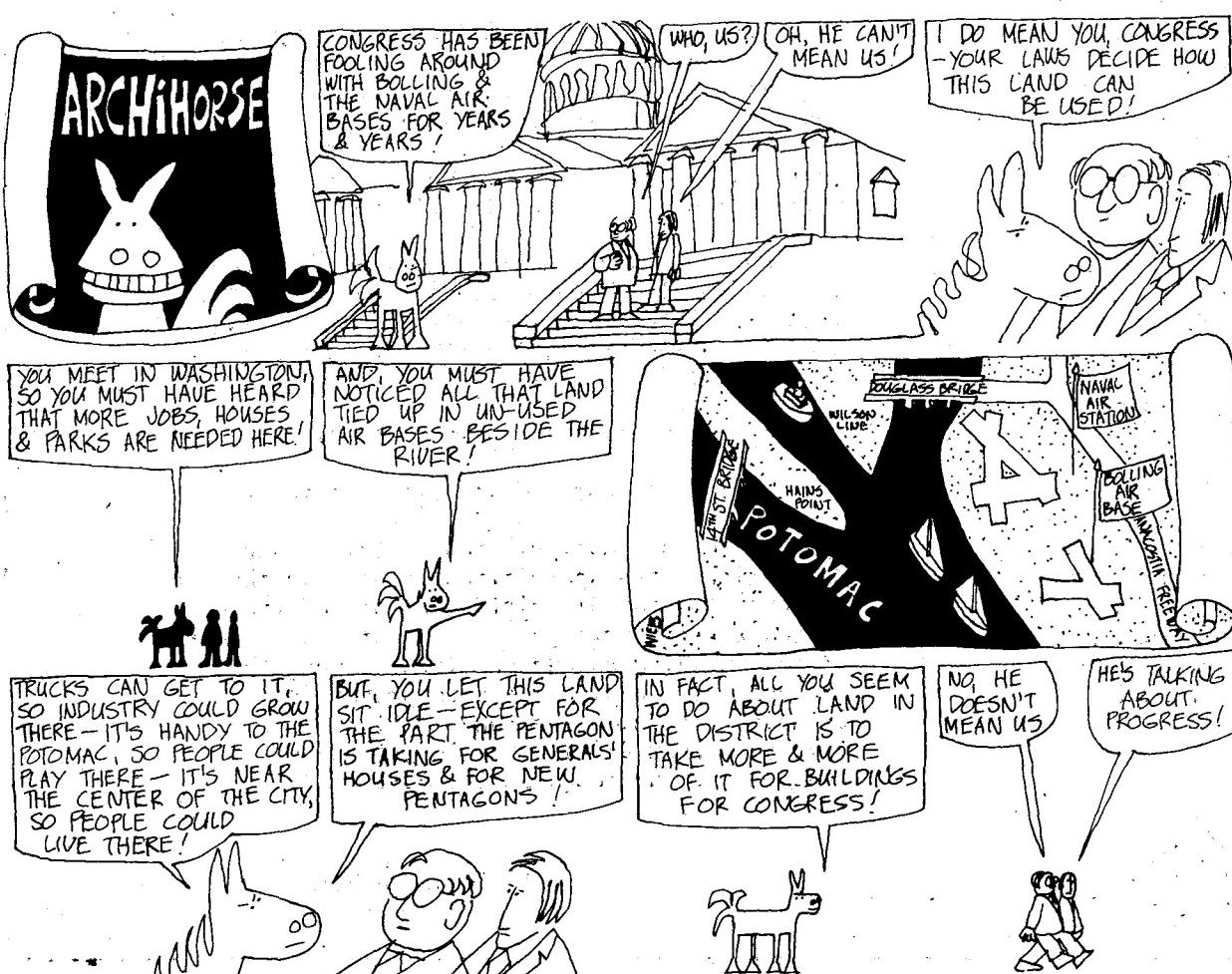
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Of twenty-two days spent on jury duty, I worked as juror for 5 1/2 hours on April 9 and 10 and for two hours on April 21 (on a case which was plea bargained after a jury had been selected, as often happened).

Jurors whiled away a month with games and TV. When judges needed twelve jurors, they sent for as many as 75. Jury selection was interminable. Furthermore, many judges treated jurors with contempt, insisting that jurors wear no informal attire, and yet keeping them waiting in hallways without chairs for thirty minutes or longer, so that the most appropriate clothing would be whatever you could most comfortably wear to sit on the floor. Some judges accused the jurors of lying and concealing their biases, made sexist comments and displayed histrionic talents better reserved for a stage.

The whole experience makes me wonder if we can afford this waste of time and money? If judges don't know how many jurors they will need, shouldn't they? Are DC jurors so unreliable that 50 or 100 must be sent to choose 12? Does trial by jury include the capricious treatment of jurors? Wouldn't two weeks of service be sufficient and couldn't jurors be called when needed and allowed to go to work on other days, as is the rule in other jurisdictions?

-- MARY J. DEWEAVER



DAVID SHAW, who is one of the few people at the Census Bureau interested in neighborhood information (and a local activist here), is about to be transferred from his job. Neighborhood groups here and elsewhere who have been helped by Shaw (including those working on the ANC boundaries) are unhappy about the shift and have protested.

LOW INCOME RATES

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A national group and a new book for neighborhoods

A large number of neighborhood activists from cities along the eastern seaboard and from as far away as Grand Rapids met last month to form an alliance for neighborhood government. The group was addressed by Senator Mark Hatfield who is pushing for a federal bill that would, among other things, give citizens the right to divert a sizable portion of their tax dollars to neighborhood government. A number of those present came from organizations involved in the same sort of work as the Adams Morgan Organization. Others came from more traditional neighborhood groups.

Hopefully, a new book by Washingtonians David Morris and Karl Hess, "Neighborhood Power: The New Localism," will encourage greater discussion of this important

issue. Published by Beacon Press, the book looks at many aspects of neighborhood government, borrowing heavily on experiences in this city. It is both a how-to-do-it book and a why-to-do-it book and although Morris and Hess present a somewhat idealized picture of neighborhood government, this book is filled with solid stuff. Another good book on the subject is Milton Kotler's "Neighborhood Government: The Local Foundations of Political Life" (Bobbs-Merrill, 1960.)

Kotler helped organize the new national alliance and you can find out more about it from him. He's at the Institute for Policy Studies. (AD4-9382)

A FACT SHEET ON THE SPECULATION TAX

(On June 19th and 20th the D. C. Council will hold hearings on a tax to discourage residential real estate speculation in the District. Speculation is a major problem in areas such as Adams-Morgan and Capitol Hill, and it is expected to spread into other parts of the District. The following is intended to answer some basic questions about the tax.)

What is Real Estate Speculation?

Real estate speculation is when people buy property at a low price and sell it at a high price in order to make a quick profit. Usually they buy and sell the property in a short period of time. Speculators are not concerned about providing safe and decent housing for people. Their main concern is to make money.

How Do Speculators Operate?

Speculators operate in a number of ways. Sometimes they "churn" properties, buying and selling them within a very short period, sometimes on the same day at a large profit. Sometimes they buy up properties cheap in black "fringe" neighborhoods where they expect whites to start moving in, driving up the property values. They often speed the process along by evicting tenants and doing some minor renovation. Some speculators never even take ownership of the property themselves. Instead, they buy and sell "contracts" to purchase the property, much in the way other kinds of speculators buy and sell stocks and bonds, or "futures" in grain and corn.

What Harm Does Speculation Do?

Speculation does harm in a number of ways. By driving up property values it increases rents and forces people out of their homes and neighborhoods. Poor people and people of modest means get hit especially hard. The cost of housing goes way up. This in turn ties up more mortgage money for each property, so that there is less to go around.

There are still other harms. Neighborhoods like Capitol Hill where whites and blacks have lived together, turn into upper income white enclaves. Local churches find their congregations swept away. Small businesses are forced out as their customers move away and as their rents increase.

But Doesn't Speculation Help Restore "Declining" Neighborhoods?

To a degree. But that is like saying a hurricane is good because it helps to water the grass. It is possible to clean up and fix neighborhoods without the inflationary profits going into the pockets of the speculators, who are just middlemen, and without disrupting whole communities. Besides, what they mean by "restore" is to get rid of low income people and bring in wealthier people, mainly whites.

How Will the Speculation Tax Work?

The details of the tax are still being worked out. Basically, the tax would affect people who deal in real estate as a business, as

opposed to people who sell their own home; and the tax would be aimed at rapid-turnovers, property bought and sold within a year or two, rather than at normal, longer-term buying and selling. There may or may not be a deduction for renovation costs.

What Will the Rates Be?

The rates will be high, to deter this rapid-turnover type of speculation. Under a bill already introduced by Councilmember Dave Clark, the rates would depend on the percent gain and the length of time the property was held, according to the following table:

% gain over purchase price	time property owned by seller		
	Less than 1 yr. rate	1-2 yr. rate	2-3 yr. rate
1 - 99%	.50%	30%	10%
100% - 199%	60%	40%	15%
200% or more	70%	45%	20%

Aren't These Rates Unfair?

No. They are not, for a number of reasons. First, speculation is socially disruptive and we need to slow it down. Second, speculators get all kinds of special breaks under the income tax laws, and real estate transfers are not subject to the regular D. C. sales tax, so the speculation tax would help make up for this favoritism. Thirdly, people can easily avoid the tax simply by holding the property for a number of years. That way everybody gains--the real estate dealer avoids the tax and neighborhoods are more stable.

I Am Thinking of Buying an Old Rowhouse and Renovating It. Will the Tax Apply to Me?

Probably not. The attempt will be to avoid taxing genuine homeowners. In fact, the tax will help such homeowners. Homes will cost less if speculators are not driving up the price. And when speculators are not drawing on the available mortgage money, there will be more left over for the rest of us.

However, the tax may reach people who buy a house solely as a speculative venture, call it their residence while they renovate it, and then unload it soon after the renovation is completed.

Is This Speculation Tax Something New?

Definitely not. Taxes are becoming a common way of trying to deter real estate speculation and manipulation. Vermont and Connecticut have speculation taxes like the one proposed for the District, and both of these states are conservative in tax matters. Other states, Washington and California among them, are actively considering such proposals. Ontario, Canada, has a very stiff speculation tax, and Great Britain is close to enacting what may be the toughest one yet.

Jonathan Rowe

KEY CITY COUNCIL VOTES

COUNCIL MEMBER	VOTE 19	VOTE 20	VOTE 21	VOTE 22	VOTE 23	VOTE 24	VOTE 25	VOTE 26	VOTE 27	VOTE 28	VOTE 29	VOTE 30	VOTE 31	CUMULATIVE + - A NV	RATING %	ABSENT %
Marion Barry	+	A	-	A	+	+	-	+	+	A	+	+	+	14 11 5 1	54%	16%
David Clarke	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	19 11 1 0	63%	3%
James Coates	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	15 15 1 0	50%	3%
Arrington Dixon	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	16 15 0 0	52%	0%
Willie Hardy	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	18 13 0 0	58%	0%
Julius Hobson	+	A	A	A	+	A	A	A	A	+	+	+	A	14 6 11 0	70%	35%
Doug Moore	+	A	A	A	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	15 13 3 0	54%	10%
Jerry Moore	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	A	14 12 5 0	54%	16%
Polly Shackleton	A	A	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	16 13 2 0	55%	6%
William Spaulding	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	13 16 0 2	48%	0%
Sterling Tucker	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	13 18 0 0	48%	0%
John Wilson	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	A	A	A	A	A	12 13 6 0	48%	19%
Nadine Winter	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	16 14 0 1	52%	0%
Pros	12	8	11	10	13	12	11	10	11	12	11	9	10			
Con	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3	0		
Walter Washington	+	NA	*	*	NA	NA	NA	NA	-	NA	+	*	*	4 8	33%	

OVERALL COUNCIL AVERAGE:
+ votes: 16 - votes: 15
Overall rating: 52%

*Awaiting mayor's action at presstime. The mayor has vetoed one key bill this year: the budget cuts proposed by the council.

SHOWN above are recent votes of the city council. + = vote that agrees with our position. - = vote that doesn't agree with our position. If you do not agree with our position, simply switch the signs. A = Absent. NV = present but not voting. The percentage shown at right is the ratio between right votes and the total number of votes at which the council member was present. The final column indicates the absenteeism rate. To help give an idea of where Walter Washington stands in all of this, we score him on those issues where he has taken a clear stand or has signed or vetoed a bill.

19. A RESOLUTION urging the mayor to designate DC as a single health service area for purposes of federal funding. This vote was part of the fight to prevent a regional takeover of health planning. (+ = support)

20. CHANGE THE COUNCIL RULES to require 30 rather than 15 day notice of proposed action. Although several councilmembers had promised in writing to support this change (which would give citizens more time to react to proposed council actions), only David Clarke voted for the extension. (+ = support)

21. CLOSE DOWN INCINERATOR by Jan. 1, 1977. It was originally proposed that the incinerator be closed down by Jan. 1, 1976, but the council extended the deadline, arguing that it had not budgeted for an alternative. But, as John Wilson pointed out, the council has shown no reluctance to reprogram funds in the middle of the year for other purposes. The city has managed to delay closing the incinerator several times and we doubt whether the deadline of January 1977 is a firm one. (+ = opposition)

22. ESTABLISH JANUARY 15TH, MARTIN Luther King's birthday, as a local holiday. (+ = support)

23. RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT for the United Farm Workers lettuce boycott including a call on DC agencies not use non-union lettuce. Significantly, the resolution omitted any mention of grapes and Gallo wine, another boycott target. Along with the cut in the liquor tax, this omission suggests that the liquor industry may be the fastest rising lobby in town. Nonetheless a + = support.

24. RESOLUTION calling on the police department to increase foot patrols in the city. (+ = support)

25, 26, 27. THE SIZEMORE FRACAS. There were three votes on this one. The first was to declare an emergency in the school system (25) which was a technical move opening the floodgates to the sacking of the school board's independence. (+ = opposition). The second (26) was a vote on an amendment by Willie Hardy that changed the language of Doug Moore's bill (which would have required the school board to take no action on Barbara Sizemore for sixty days) to a resolution strongly urging the school board

to take no action. Since the effect of this resolution was to prevent a far worse piece of legislation from passing, supporters of the amendment get a plus. The third vote (27) was on the amended bill which should have been voted down but wasn't. All in all it was the sorriest day for the new city council.

28. ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS. This is an attempt by the council to get at the proliferation of boards and commissions in the city government. (+ = support)

29. ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENT that all high school students participate in the cadet corps program. (+ = support)

30. EXTEND THE STARTING DATE of the University of DC one year. As mentioned in our lead story this month, this prevented the bad congressional bill on the UDC being steamrollered through the council. (+ = support)

31. ESTABLISH A COMMISSION on the arts and humanities. (+ = support)

needs and resources of both parties. Child custody may be part of the dissolution or an independent proceeding. Basic test would be the best interests of the child. (Dixon)

A BILL TO PERMIT FELONS AND PERSONS PRESENTLY IN JAIL TO VOTE IN LOCAL ELECTIONS. (Arrington Dixon)

THREE RESOLUTIONS ESTABLISHING SPECIAL COUNCIL COMMITTEES TO LOOK INTO DISCRIMINATION IN (1) LAW FIRMS, (2) REAL ESTATE FIRMS AND (3) THE NEWS MEDIA (Douglas Moore)

A BILL TO REQUIRE THE POSTING OF CERTAIN COMMONLY PRESCRIBED DRUGS. This law would allow the mayor to establish a list of the 100 most commonly used prescription drug products and require that druggists post the prices of these items. This is along the lines of what DC PIRG has been seeking, following its survey that found that some druggists here discriminated and/or were arbitrary in the prices charged for drugs. Introduced by James Coates.

A BILL TO PERMIT COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING ON THE REAR OF METROBUSES. This is a good bill that could chip away at the Metro deficit - but why not permit advertising on the sides of buses as well? Introduced by Jerry Moore.

A BILL TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME. This bill would provide for public payment to victims of crime who were injured or, in the case of death, to dependents for support. (Arrington Dixon and Polly Shackleton)

of a street are included in the same district. This is not presently the case. While for drawing ward precinct lines it may not matter that much, neighborhood problems frequently involve both sides of a street. The residents should, where possible, be represented by the same neighborhood council member.

The bill permits a candidate to win with only a plurality of votes. In a race with a large number of candidates, this means someone could win with as few as 10-20% of the votes. We prefer a preferential voting system in which each voter could indicate a first and second choice. If no candidate received a majority of the votes cast for first place, the second place choice of those who voted for the candidates who came in 3rd, 4th, 5th etc. would be counted and added, as appropriate, to the votes of the candidates who came in first and second in the first round of counting. This system is used in several cities and provides the advantages of a runoff (i.e. a second chance for those who did not vote for the top two candidates) without the liability (i.e. low voter turnout and added expense). Norvel Perkins, director of the Board of Elections, tells us that he has informed the council that while his first choice is for the plurality system, his second choice would be for preferential voting rather than a runoff. He says the board's planned new equipment could handle the preferential vote count. (Tucker)

A BILL TO PROVIDE SAFEGUARDS ON CERTAIN INFORMATION COLLECTED BY THE POLICE. This isn't a very good bill as written, but it could be made stronger. The mayor and city council chairman would each get to appoint four members to a police intelligence policy commission. The executive director would be appointed by the mayor. It would develop guidelines for handling police intelligence and submit a report to the council by the end of this year. It's the old blue ribbon routine again, with Walter Washington and Sterling Tucker handing out the ribbons. Title II of the bill is more useful. It would permit citizens to review police files, bar the compilation of material not relevant to law enforcement and provide treble damages in the event improper information has been compiled or disseminated in such a way as to injure a person. (Sterling Tucker)

COUNCIL BILLS

The evaluation of the bills below is based on the overall intent and language of the legislation. Bills listed as good may require important amendments and bad bills may have good parts. For the full bill, write or call the council member who introduced it.

Good Bills

A BILL TO CHANGE THE MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE LAWS. This bill is designed to make divorce a non-adversary proceeding. The only ground for divorce would be living separate and apart for 180 days or the existence of an attitude in the marital relationship detrimental to the marriage. Separation agreements are encouraged; common law marriages are abolished; attorneys would be appointed to represent the children. Evaluation of support payments for either spouse would be governed by availability of property to one spouse to allow him/her to provide for him/herself; standard of living enjoyed while living together; time necessary to find suitable employment; education; employment possibilities; duration of marriage; age; emotional needs. No consideration of marital fault would be involved. Property would be distributed based upon contributions of each spouse to the property, including value provided as a homemaker; duration of marriage; economic necessities; and the advisability to give one party the family home in which to raise children. Child support would be based on financial

Bills to Study

A BILL TO CREATE A RESIDENTIAL UTILITY CONSUMER ACTION GROUP. Although well intentioned, this bill, which would create a utility consumer action group funded by voluntary contributions that could be sent in with your utility bill, really seems the long way home. It would make far more sense to work for an elected public service commission or an elected people's counsel (who is supposed to be doing the things that the consumer action group would do) rather than take this approach. Better yet: have the city take over Pepco and Washington Gas Light. The bill is supported by a lot of good people from Ralph Nader on down but it smacks of the Common Cause approach: lots of donations, lots of staff and not much action. (Arrington Dixon)

A BILL TO ESTABLISH NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL BOUNDARIES AND SET QUALIFICATIONS. Although this is a generally good bill, it has a number of problems:

- The qualification of voters is not spelled out. We feel strongly that any resident of neighborhoods 16 or older should be permitted to vote in these elections - whether a registered elector in city elections or not and without regard to normal disqualifications such as those used to bar ex-felons and aliens.

NO NC and single member districts should be drawn so that both sides

Bad Bills

REORGANIZATION PLAN submitted by the mayor to create a department of transportation. There is less here than meets the eye. This is essentially the highway department in drag. Under the director will be three offices and four bureaus. Five of these units will be largely concerned with highway department matters, one will be concerned with administration (i.e. developing a DHR-type bureaucracy?) and one, the Office of Transportation Policy and Plans will be concerned with who knows what. The council should send this one back to the mayor and tell him to try again.

A BILL TO CHANGE THE NAME OF ANCs FROM ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS TO ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS The city council, which takes itself rather seriously, apparently doesn't want anyone horning in on its name. There could be scores of people with the right to call themselves council members not to mention about 30 council chairmen. So the present lone council chairman in the city, Mr. Tucker, has introduced this silly bill. If the council feels compelled to change the name, then at least it should use something less pompous and less reeking of our colonial history than commission. Neighborhood board or committee would be preferable. But if they insist on calling them commissions, let's follow in Big Wally's footsteps. He was the Commissioner but he called himself mayor. The new bodies can be "neighborhood councils" regardless of what the city council says they are. (Sterling Tucker)

A BILL EARMARKING A PORTION OF sales tax revenue to pay for the Metrorbus deficit. Earmarking tax revenues reduces the flexibility of the budget as the city has found with revenues in the highway fund. There is no reason to designate particular revenues to pay for specific budget items except that it contributes to the illusion that the city is doing something about the Metrorbus deficit - which it isn't. (Jerry Moore)

PUBLICATIONS

WHY SURVIVE: BEING OLD IN AMERICA. By Robert Butler, MD. Published by Harper & Row. Butler is a DC psychiatrist long active in DC affairs and the problems of the aging. This is an attack on the way America lets its citizens grow old.

DC TAX FACTS: Fiscal Year 1975. From the DC Department of Finance and Revenue. Comparative data, details of DC tax system and history of changes in local tax structure.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND REVENUE ON THE REVENUE ACT OF 1975. From the City Council. The basic document analysing the mayor's revenue proposals and providing the justification for the city council's alternatives.

PROSPECTUS FOR A SELF-SUSTAINING NEIGHBORHOOD-CENTERED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR COLLECTION AND RECYCLING OF HOUSEHOLD, APARTMENT HOUSE AND BUSINESS WASTE. This report gives more details on the waste disposal system described in the May issue of the Gazette. From Institute for Local Self-Reliance, 1717 18th NW, DC 20009 (232-4108)



Labor newsletter/cpf

Classifieds

Classified ads are \$1 for 20 words or less. Payable in advance. Deadline is the third Tuesday of the month. Send ad with check to DC Gazette, 109 8th St. NE, DC 20002

SERIOUS RESEARCHER/AUTHOR needs material on the Mystique of the Oriental Woman. Why do non-Asian men find them so desirable? Experiences/fantasies/comments needed. Anonymity guaranteed. Box 490, FLEACT, Sasebo, FPO Seattle 98766.

Pacific Imperialism Notebook, Selected issues, 1972-74, Bound. Facts & analysis of U.S., Japanese & European imperialism in S.E. Asia. Articles indexed by country and company. A goldmine of information. \$5.00

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

The Gazette will run small camera-ready announcements for non-profit organizations in this column free of charge. Prepare your announcement 3" wide and no more than 2" high. Use black ink or carbon ribbon typewriter for best reproduction. Announcements must be received by the third Tuesday of the month. Send to DC Gazette, 109 8th St. NE, DC 20002

This summer make a BIG SPLASH! Dive into pool of courses offered by the Graduate School, USDA - You are bound to come up with a class that interests you!

Registration is June 10-14, 1975 in the USDA Patio located at 14th and Independence Ave., S.W., Wash., D.C. For more information and schedules call 447-4419.

WRITING MODERN DANCE MANAGEMENT YOGA PHOTOGRAPHY ACCOUNTING TYPING ECOLOGY PSYCHOLOGY COMPUTERS AND MUCH MORE!

TRANSPORTATION DEPT. HEARING: The mayor's cosmetic creation of a department of transportation comes up before a public hearing on June 2 at 2 pm and 730 pm in the city council chamber. This proposal looks like the highway department in drag and the mayor should be called on it. To testify call Gwen Bohlke at 638-2223 or 629-3806.

CAMPAIGN REFORM HEARINGS: June 10 at 2 and 730 at the District Building and June 11 at 2 and 730 pm at the Anacostia public library. To testify call Ken Werner at 638-2223 by the close of business on June 6.

An "Institute for Advanced French Studies" will be held during the second Summer Session, June 30 - August 8, 1975, at the University of Maryland. Its objective is to expose students to an intensive and extensive range of French studies at the advanced level: translation and composition, literary studies, phonetics and diction, conversation practice and civilization. No student may enroll for less than six credits: 6 undergraduate credits, or 3 undergraduate plus 3 graduate credits. Call 454-4303 or 454-4304 for further information.



GI ORGANIZERS NEEDED

The US military still has over 200,000 servicepeople poised for attack against the people of Asia. While many of them are scattered on isolated bases, the concentration in Japan - both the main island and on Okinawa - is high. For over five years Pacific Counselling Service has run counselling and organizing projects there in order to help GIs resist being used against their interests, and to strengthen the class-conscious revolutionary movement in the US.

PCS needs people with a strong interest in working with GIs, and their families. Organizers preferably should have a proletarian standpoint and experience, and some experience with the military. Subsistence and transportation are guaranteed.

Contact PCS, 2588 Mission St. #220, San Francisco, CA 94110 (415) 285-1212 for more information.

CORRECTION

The addresses given two months ago for the police districts were incorrect. Here are the correct addresses:

DISTRICT ONE: 415 4th St SW
Substation 1: 500 E SE

DISTRICT TWO: 3301 Idaho Ave. NW

DISTRICT THREE: 1620 V NW
Substation: 501 New York Ave NW

DISTRICT FOUR: 6001 Georgia Ave

DISTRICT FIVE: 1805 Bladensburg Ave NE
Substation: 525 9th NE

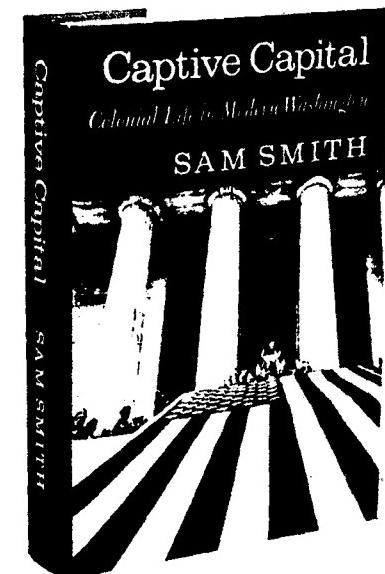
DISTRICT SIX: 4135 Benning Rd NE

DISTRICT SEVEN: 1324 Miss. SE

ing, stained glass work and weaving. There will also be a large flea market and a restaurant in the Market Five Gallery in Eastern Market. This is always an important and happy event on Capitol Hill. The hours are from 11 to 6. Info: 547-8880.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD: The local chapter of the American Institute of Architects has announced an annual award program for projects making a significant contribution to historic preservation in the city. Entries will be accepted from architects, builders and owners (including government agencies) August 18-29. For info contact the local AIA at 1777 Church St. NW, DC 20036 (667-1798) or call Nicholas Pappas at 466-2080.

HEARING ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST, DISCLOSURE AND LOBBYING LAWS. To discuss possible changes in the present law in this area. Arrington Dixon will chair. June 25 at 10 and 2 in the council chambers. June 26 at 2 pm in the council chamber. 730 pm at the public library, Benning Road NE near Minn. Ave. NE. To testify call Ken Werner at 638-2223.



Captive Capital

Colonial Life in Modern Washington

Here's what people have been saying about Gazette editor Sam Smith's book about local Washington:

Could be an excellent gift for any friend just moving to town. Or any friend who has managed to live here for sometime without learning anything about Washington. . . . Sam Smith's is one of the few efforts I have seen that manages to deal with black people and white people without insulting either." — WILLIAM RASPBERRY, WASHINGTON POST

It is absolutely 'must' reading for all who are interested in this city's history, its political or private life — JAMES TINNEY, WASHINGTON AFRO-AMERICAN

Smith's book is a joy to read — ROBERT CASSIDY, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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THROUGH DC BY BUS



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BOOKS, SEE PAGE 6

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